

Winter application of fertilizer and manure regulated

DOVER – Delaware farmers, lawn care companies, golf courses and other nutrient handlers should not apply nutrients to the ground during the winter months, the Delaware Department of Agriculture reminds applicators.

Regulations adopted by the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission in 2007 prohibit certified nutrient handlers from applying commercial and manure-based fertilizer from December 7 to February 15, the time of year most vulnerable for nutrient runoff. Application may also not occur on snow-covered or frozen ground, or on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, roads or other paved areas.

“This approach protects nutrients from runoff during the winter and early spring, when we have the most precipitation, and helps keep Delaware waters clean,” said Nutrient Management Program Administrator Chris Brosch.

Failure to comply with the winter application regulations may result in a compliance and enforcement hearing before the commission.

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